



SPIRIT OF ICELAND w/ Northern Lights

October 25th-30th, 2024

Prepared for Walter Marussich



Accommodations



Fosshotel Reykjavik - or similar

Fosshotel Reykjavik is situated in Reykjavik's business district Borgartun, close by the city center. Within a ten minute walk along the seaside you will reach Reykjavik harbor, the stunning Harpa concert hall and Laugavegur with its bustling restaurants, bars and shops. With 16 floors, many of the rooms at Fosshotel Reykjavik offer magnificent views of the city and the bay area. The interior design of Fosshotel Reykjavik is dominated by warm, natural materials that make you feel right at home. Last but not the least, Haust Restaurant and the Beer Garden are located on the ground floor.



Vik: Hotel Vik

A restaurant, a fitness center, and a bar/lounge are available at this smoke-free hotel. Free continental breakfast, free WiFi in public areas, and free self parking are also provided. Other amenities include a refrigerator in a common area, dry cleaning, and a 24-hour front desk. All 78 rooms offer free WiFi, flat-screen TVs, and free local calls. Hair dryers, showers, and desks are among the other amenities that guests will find.

Itinerary

Day 1: October 25, 2024



Reykjavik/Welcome Breakfast/City Tour/Northern Lights

Get ready for a full day after an early arrival in the world's northernmost capital, known for its creative soul and eye-popping design. You'll be greeted at the airport and escorted to a restaurant in a nearby village for a welcome breakfast and orientation briefing with your group. Now energized, we'll head to Reykjavik for a city tour. Highlights range from historic spots (like one of the oldest parliaments in the world) to the landmark Hallgrimskirkja church with its impressive tower, as well as the dazzling "Pearl," a museum with a rotating glass dome (entrance to Observation deck included Oct 2021 onward), Asmundur Sveinsson Sculpture museum and Hofdi House, where presidents Reagan and Gorbachev held a summit that marked the end of the Cold War. After checking into our centrally located hotel, you'll have free time in the afternoon and evening to relax and explore. Tonight will be our first opportunity to view the magical, colorful display across the night sky known as the Northern Lights. Again, we must stress that there is no guarantee you will see the northern lights, but your smarTours® guide will make every effort! If the weather doesn't cooperate, the excursion will be rescheduled for another evening. And don't forget, your overnight stay in Vik affords the chance to see the northern lights at their best.

Accommodations: Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Marina or similar

Meals: Breakfast (B)

Day 2: October 26, 2024



Reykjavik/Optional Wonders of Snaefellsnes Excursion

Today is a free day for independent exploring in or around Reykjavik, or you can join a fascinating full-day optional excursion to the spectacular Snaefellsnes peninsula. See optional tours for more details on this must-see destination.

Meals: Breakfast (B)

Day 3: October 27, 2024



Reykjavik/Seljalandsfoss & Skogafoss Waterfalls/Vik/Northern Lights Experience

Our journey takes us through the stunning and diverse landscapes of Iceland's south coast. This is the land of Njal's Saga, a region of breathtaking scenery and legendary stories. On our guided excursion, we'll encounter the dramatic sea cliffs of Dyrholaey and the spectacular waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss, as well as unforgettable views of Hekla and

Eyjafjallajokull volcanoes. Tonight's destination is the remote village of Vik, known for its black-sand beaches and considered one of the most magical places to see the northern lights. After dinner together in our countryside hotel, we can simply stroll outside to view this amazing phenomenon!

Accommodations: Hotel Vik or similar
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4: October 28, 2024



Vik/Geysir/Gullfoss/Thingvellir/Reykjavik

Our loop of incredible Iceland continues along the Golden Circle, which showcases the country's most spectacular natural sights. Our first stop is the Geysir hot spring area and the lively Strokkur, which spouts water every 30 minutes. Get your cameras ready for an exciting show! We'll head to the famous Gullfoss (translated as "Golden Falls") with its spectacular two-tiered cascade. Next is Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site where the ancient Viking parliament met for centuries on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. Here, we'll witness the geological phenomenon of tectonic plates drifting apart. Later, we'll return to Reykjavik for an evening at leisure.

Accommodations: Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Marina
Meals: Breakfast

Day 5: October 29, 2024

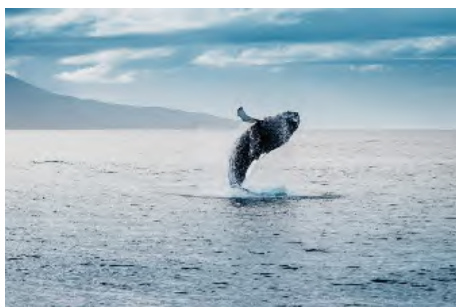


Reykjavik/Reykjanes Peninsula/Blue Lagoon

Today you'll dip into Iceland's fascinating history, unique geothermal wonders, and one of its most popular attractions. Our exploration includes Hafnarfjordur, built on an ancient lava flow; the deep, mysterious Lake Kleifarvatn; geothermal areas at Krysuvik and Gunnuhver; the fishing village of Grindavik; and the country's oldest lighthouse. We've saved the most relaxing stop for last, the famous Blue Lagoon, where you'll bathe in mineral-rich, 102°F waters like the Icelanders do! After our return to Reykjavik, our day concludes with a farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner (B, D)

Day 6: October 30, 2024



Reykjavik/Whales of Iceland Exhibition /Return to USA

Spend the morning at leisure before checkout. Visit the dazzling "Pearl," a museum with a rotating glass dome (entrance to Observation deck included), then, your smarTours guide will take you to the Whales of Iceland Exhibition. The Whales of Iceland is the largest museum dedicated to whales in Europe and possibly the world. A team of expert craftsmen has sculpted 23 lifelike cetaceans found in Icelandic waters both to scale and based on specific individuals found in the wild! Travelers who purchased our air-inclusive package will then depart to the airport for the return nonstop flight to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast (B)